



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1737, **Agenda Item #:** 66.

4/23/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance accepting grant funds from the National Science Foundation; amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Communications and Technology Management Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) in the amount of \$50,000; authorizing execution of an agreement with US Ignite and Automated Training Systems to reimburse Augmented Training Systems for costs up to \$50,000 incurred in developing virtual and augmented training for first responders.

Lead Department

Communications and Technology Management

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to IT Manager, Charles Purma III at 512.974.5644 or Charles.PurmaIII@austintexas.gov

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

Communications and Technology Management approved applying for funding from US Ignite on February 17, 2017.

Additional Backup Information:

The training uses virtual reality technology to allow emergency responders to train for mass casualty events in a simulated environment. After completing the training, participants report up to a 45% reduction in errors, which can mean life or death in a crisis. This lifesaving technology was initially developed through a three-year partnership between the City of Austin and local startup [Augmented Training Systems <https://augmentedtrainingsystems.com/>](https://augmentedtrainingsystems.com/), with funding from a previous US Ignite grant.

The City of Austin has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the [National Science Foundation <https://nsf.gov/>](https://nsf.gov/)-funded US Ignite [Smart Gigabit Communities <https://www.us-ignite.org/program/smart-gigabit-communities/>](https://www.us-ignite.org/program/smart-gigabit-communities/) project. Austin-Travis County EMS and CTM's Collaboration Services team initiated the grant funding application. The funding will expand the use of a virtual reality training for first responders across Texas. This public-private collaboration will not only improve training for countless first responders, ultimately save lives and improve safety in our community and beyond.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety, Government that Works for All.